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Communications.

THOUGHTS ON THE ARMY,

AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT.

MR. EDITOR: From my retreat in the far, far West, at an outpost beyond the outer marches of civilization, where my thoughts have long and painfully dwelt upon a condition shared by many—by the western army—suffer my voice to be heard in a sober appeal to all, the influential and those most concerned. Suffer me, though reluctant, to probe its evils, and to consider of remedies, that I may flatter myself that some hope of improvement may be entertained.

From the north to the southwest, new posts are so often established, from the various motives of change, new exigencies, decay, &c.; being ever erected with so scanty means, in so careless, comfortless, and defenceless a manner, under a negligent and parsimonious administration of distant and unseen interests—that a picture of one, in its foundation, progress, and maturity, were a fair test of the merits of the class. Faithful is my endeavor to execute this task.

A site is selected, perchance in the dreary depths of some primitive forest—desolate and inaccessible, it may be, if geographical position be mostly insisted on, and unhealthy most generally, because on a river. The wolf is startled from his lair by the approach of an armed array of three or four, seldom more than five or six, reduced companies, which, without display, plod wearily along, with a train of baggage containing their now more important weapons, the axe, and rude tools, and encamp amid the dark undergrowth. The arms of the many soon become neglected—in a measure abandoned. If they be cavalry, their horses are turned into a large enclosure, where they are long to remain, neglected, useless, and exposed. Every energy is now devoted to the felling of trees to build log huts with wooden chimneys, clap-board roofs, put on with weight-poles, and without windows or floors; and to putting up rude pickets and block-houses, which complete the "fort." A summer or fall ensues, and the miasma arising from the unwonted exposure to the sun of a new surface composed of a mass of vegetation in every stage of decay, places one half of the officers and men upon the sick report—prostrates them, destitute of all comforts, with that fell disease, the ague, with which many of them linger for years.

The next step is to build another better "fort," on a spot near by. They labor on, perhaps for years, at quarters of hewed logs, of frame, or possibly of stone or brick—the lumber sometimes all sawed by hand. Wearily as they work on, exposed and suffering as they may be themselves, fortunate are they if their first and exclusive labor for many months be not the erection of a large and complete house for the sole comfort and pleasure of one individual of the number. Mayhap they look forward with a vague hope of one day seeing the erection of a permanent defensible work, with such quarters as they build for the eastern division, and which a Secretary has planned or promised; but in which he has not had the fortune or perseverance to obtain the co-operation of the legislature.

It is now my object to describe the life of the officer at this post. I will suppose a young officer, a graduate, to have arrived, in the first stages of its existence. He has received a scientific, military education; young, and lacking experience, his character and habits are unconfirmed; but he has had a vague conception of the pleasure and pride of arms, and of their practical exercise. He may, or should,

have formed plans of improvement—of following out, on a more liberal scale, the study of his noble profession—of reading the works of the great masters of his art, of those who have described and commented on the most brilliant campaigns, or who have given the results of their experience and reflections on the operations and expedients of war in all its branches. But he is astonished; he is disappointed. He at least expected to find himself among soldiers, but sees none but ragged workmen, and a few others in fatigue clothing going through some of the most usual duties, as mere forms; he expected some command of men; he finds that his company, as "extra duty men," is under the charge of the quartermaster, and will hardly recognise, under any circumstances, his authority. He expected to be occupied with his duties; he finds he has scarce any employment. He then seeks to find refuge in studies, or general literature; he finds that there are few or no books at the post. He determines that he will ride, hunt, explore the country. He purchases a horse and rides, but generally alone; there are no roads, and none perhaps but barren and difficult avenues. There is no game, the Indian has destroyed it. He reads in some stray newspaper of the youth of cities exercising in gymnasiums, and in halls devoted to the exercise of arms, receiving lessons in "the noble art of fence." He is sorrowful that nothing of the sort is here practicable or dreamed of by those around him. Almost in despair, he conceives of a debating society; he finds his four, five, or six companions, not enough to form one if disposed; they will enter heartily into no permanent, common plans of improvement or amusement. The hearts of some are far away in the eastern cities, where are those who should be their companions—enjoying themselves, they imagine; they know that they have devoted themselves to greater solitude, and increased duties. If he seek the pleasure of converse with the little society around him, he finds a poor resource, because it is so small, so unchanged, so unexcited, so *same*. Useful and improving pursuits out of the question, he is disposed to banish ennui by any rational amusement; he finds that, unlike all other societies and conditions of the human race, not one is known at the post. If he attempt to compose habitually, he is discouraged by the want of books of reference. And finally, if he contemplate writing for the Chronicle, he finds that the mails are exceedingly slow and uncertain, that no one else writes, and that perhaps few even read.

It is not in human nature to stand all this; excitement or occupation is absolutely necessary. He is invited to play at cards—he is pressed to do so—the influence of example has full play upon him; and temptation is found in another form of excitement—the bottle; he yields, and plants the seeds of habits which, unless he be very firm, in a few years become settled. It is these vicious excitements and habits of indolence which become so seductive as to destroy the inclination for the more manly amusements of the chase, &c.

He forgets necessarily the technicalities of the sciences or arts, for the most part theoretically acquired, and is in a fair way (for any important application) of losing them forever. Listless and inactive, his mind runs to fallow, and though of fine intellect, and once of bright promise, he is fated at middle age to sink into hopeless mediocrity.

If the young officer was appointed from civil life, his condition is in some respects worse; he has so little opportunity to acquire that knowledge of his profession which is so engrafted into the mind, the very nature, of most graduates, that nothing can ever

eradicate it; and perhaps of less experience, or with a less disciplined mind, he offers less resistance to the vice of his situation.

The picture is faithful, but incomplete. The worst has been seen. The post improves in its moral capabilities, though but little in their development. A small library has gradually been purchased, and military duties give more occupation; some resources for amusement have possibly been achieved; the poor men, who enlisted perhaps with the deliberate expectation and intention of becoming soldiers, and who have stoically accomplished every work and drudgery, now generally get up a Thespian society, and often exhibit an excellence evidently resulting from an exertion of mind quite unwonted to the majority of their superiors. The officers, too, give parties and balls, if their number be not too small; they read, too, but generally light works, the current literature of the day. Habits of continuous application of the mind having been long interrupted, (though necessarily or reluctantly,) are with great difficulty recovered; and there is no urgent call, no necessity impelling to painful exertion. *Pretium honoris labor est*, but necessity is the great mother of labor.

Why should this state of things exist in the American army? the army of the great republic; an army increasing in size, and needing a new impulse to make it equal to important and growing duties; and which, who shall say, may not very soon be called on to emerge from that state of peace, which, existing so long, has led to this declining and neglected condition. And of the army of what other nation can this be said? France, Russia, and even England, find employment for their arms; and by untrammelled and enlightened administrations, keep alive the spirit of improvement, and provide the means, and offer inducements to both theoretical and practical excellence and distinction. But, above all, Prussia presents a system, which, approaching nearer the laws and customs of ancient republics renowned in arms, than of a consolidated monarchy, is the very reverse of the American: there the officer, undergoing repeated examinations, is impelled to study, practice, and improvement, by these severe tests of proficiency and excellence.

If I have presented a picture, homely but faithful, of evils which others suffering with me equally deplore: if I have revealed truths, startling to those whom duty and reputation alike call upon to exercise a commanding influence to exalt the efficiency and character of the army: let me offer to the consideration of all, some thoughts upon remedies and reform.

1st. *The erection of permanent quarters and defences, by contract or hired labor.*

Of this the soldier, the officer, and the government, would feel the advantage; the cause of many of the evils I have dwelt upon would be at once removed. The officer would be happier, in being occupied with his profession; and be able to entertain feelings of military pride and emulation. The soldier would cease to be deceived, be better contented, less apt to desert.

The Government would have its work done cheaper* and better.

* Let us consider a moment the *only favorable view* which can be taken of the practice, usual in the West, of employing soldiers in building—that it is cheaper; and compare it with the plan of engaging the services of bodies of workmen in the more populous States, for a required period, under special contracts. A soldier costs the Government the first year, including pay, clothing, subsistence, transportation west, and medical attendance, at the least, \$252. The loss of 20 per cent. the same year by desertion, averaged among 80 men, is about \$24 each; add also, for those employed at work, \$65 for extra pay and whiskey commutation, and the whole amount is \$336, besides many general expenses for camp equipage, &c. &c. difficult to estimate. Now add, for total loss of military services, (beside a partial

2d. *A radical change of system, under which* (notwithstanding the late law, forbidding the employment of officers in certain civil duties) *nearly two thirds of the officers are habitually absent from their companies or posts.*

How vast an improvement to the service would this reform be! to the character and contentment of the officer, whose society would be so much improved: and an opening would be made for emulation in duties, and improving and healthful exercises and amusements. There would be a public opinion to act upon vicious individual pursuits or inclinations. We would be an united family.

Another law, separating the staff from the line,† would go far toward this reform. But that is not all: Two rules or regulations should be made, and after being made should be adhered to: 1st. That no written or verbal applications, made through irregular channels, should be received or listened to at head quarters; and 2dly, that no indulgence or application shall be granted, unless asked or made by an officer from his proper station. Their condition being much improved, few, indeed, would be asked afterwards.

3d. *The purchase by Government, for the use of each permanent post, of a good foundation for a library.*

For example, a selection by an enlightened Secretary of War, of the best authors, ancient and modern, on military subjects. If so beneficial an appropriation could not be obtained, still a well advised catalogue of such books, recommended, and procured if wished, under the direction of the Secretary, might have a good effect.

4th. *A sword-master for each Post.*

It is a little extraordinary that the sword exercise, so necessary to the army, not only in a purely military point of view, but as an accomplishment and a healthful and strengthening exercise, should have been so totally neglected. It is like religious instruction, that unless furnished by Government, the officer has no power of obtaining it at all. Instruction in fencing at the military academy is purely nominal. The writer, while there, never took a lesson. At cavalry posts greater provision should be made for the drill of the men.

5th. *A gymnasium at each post.*

We might borrow from the ancients the wisdom of the use of this important means of the improvement of the physical capacities of the soldier. How peculiarly necessary, if only in view of the inactive life they sometimes lead, to their health, and capacity for endurance. Employment, which will not destroy discipline and military acquirements, is a great object; even if not of professional advantage: amusements, a pleasing employment, though at much cost, would be a gain in the end as preventives of desertion and dissipation. The Government might even find

one of discipline and instruction,) \$250; and the cost of each laborer will be \$586 per annum. Of the 80 men, perhaps 50 will be placed on extra duty; and 40 of these will be mere day laborers; and the 10 mechanics more or less drunken. All experience shows that "not half the work can be got out of" them, as "out of" the hired mechanics. Or, why would they enlist, (to work,) if their general capacities will command regularly as mechanics so much higher wages? A poor mechanic wishing to emigrate, would find it a good bargain thus to earn cash to enter land, &c., and in the vicinity of the posts.

As a corollary, it is evident that Government would gain by enlisting, as laborers, blacksmiths, wagoners, packmen, &c., the men who are employed at all posts as extra-duty men; on a march, even in case of an action, a wagoner, or packman, has all his powers tested, to take care of his charge, without the encumbrance of arms, or even defensive fighting.

† Even as I write, in February, I hear a report that the President in his message recommends such a law, He, and his advisers, will receive the thanks of the army for this measure, as one of justice and expediency.

its advantage in the erection of cheap theatres. At any rate, there should be at each post a large public building, containing—if not a gymnasium—a large hall for general courts martial; a library and a reading room, and a fencing room. And at cavalry posts, a covered riding house for lessons in riding, the use of the sabre and pistol, which would be particularly useful in winter and inclement weather.

6th. The last suggestion which I shall make is that a system should be devised for the encouragement of Essays on subjects connected with the profession, or of excellence in all kinds of military acquirements.

The most simple distinction to the exhibition of superior information and abilities would prove the greatest incentive to improvement, for the sake of reputation in the profession. How necessary to a time of long peace! when eminent capacities lie latent for want of excitement and an object; how necessary that Government should possess some legitimate means of recognizing the talents and capacities of its officers—a knowledge which may become highly important.

The want of some standard of ability or test of merit, is exhibited in a strong tendency to create reputations upon the vague and fallacious foundations of rumor or report; and to magnify the mere performance of duty into acts of extraordinary prowess, meriting distinction.

In conclusion, I in all humility call upon my companions to reflect upon these subjects, and to resist the depressing influence of unfavorable circumstances. We must put our own shoulders to the wheel; the busy world around us is all in motion; the pursuits of civil life, arduous and exciting, develop every faculty and lead continually to eminence; while we are in danger of falling continually to the rear in the great theatre of life and action, of those of less abilities, and even acquirements, but of more persevering industry. The curse of labor extended to the mind; but thorns and thistles will it bring forth unless cultivated; the advantages of an education, bestowed for the benefit of our country rather than our own, are lost unless the good work be followed up; there is no resting place; we must continually gain, or we lose ground. And I call on all, not averse to writing for our professional press, to compare their opinions and views on these matters; and I shall be happy in having been the means of eliciting superior information, or the suggestions of a more enlightened reform.

F. R. D.

February, 1840.

HORSE ARTILLERY.

MR. EDITOR: I am among those who rejoice at the praiseworthy efforts which have lately been made by Mr. Poinsett to revive the light artillery service, even on the very limited scale authorised by existing laws, and I do hope those efforts will not be relaxed.

It has long been matter of surprise that so powerful an agent of war as horse artillery should have received so little attention in our country, to whose circumstances it is believed to be peculiarly adapted, especially in defensive operations on our maritime frontier.

The fact seems almost incredible, that, during the whole of the late war with Great Britain, we had but a single regiment of that important arm attached to the regular service; and since the reduction of the army in 1821, only four companies (one taken from each regiment of foot artillery) have been authorized by law, and even these were merely nominal, no effort having been made to equip them, as horse artillery, until very recently.

As it is a very expensive arm of service, I am aware that it never can, with our economical notions, constitute a large proportion of our peace establishment; nor would that seem expedient, even if it were not opposed by the consideration of expense. But we should be careful not to run into the other extreme. There is on this subject, as on all others, a *juste milieu* which should be ob-

served. What that would be, is a question admitting, of course, of great diversity of opinion. I think, however, it may be safely affirmed that we should maintain, during peace, at least two regiments, as the means of practical instruction, and as a base upon which we could build up a suitable establishment of that great arm in the event of war.

It is my own humble conviction that, next to that class of fortifications which is necessary to shut the enemy's fleets out of our very harbors, a numerous horse artillery is the most important element of our means of defence against the assaults to which we are likely to be exposed on our extensive seaboard. Manœuvring in conjunction with cavalry, it might meet an enemy at the threshold, and, with its superior power of retreating rapidly, and re-forming in the face of an army of foot, would be able to contest every inch of ground between the place of landing and the object of attack. A consciousness of their ability to retire with perfect safety when they could no longer maintain their ground, would impart courage to the troops, and it is believed that, with a slight admixture of regular soldiers accustomed to the expert management of the guns, the fine volunteer corps with which our large cities abound might soon be rendered quite efficient in this description of service, especially if commanded by experienced officers.

It is difficult to conceive how an army of foot, wholly destitute of cavalry—as one coming from beyond the ocean must necessarily be—and possessing but little, if any, light artillery, could ever succeed in penetrating fifty miles into our country, destroying our public establishments and then retiring on board its shipping, if it were assailed, as it should be, on landing, by a numerous horse artillery, manœuvring boldly in conjunction with cavalry, under all the advantages of a perfect acquaintance with the theatre of operations.

But if it should not be entirely repulsed by a constant succession of horse attacks, it would at least be seriously checked and retarded in its movements, thus gaining time for preparations which are too apt to be omitted in the proper season; and when it should have succeeded, by gallantry and perseverance, in reaching those lines of defence which ordinary forecast would of course have thrown around the object of attack, it would be found in rather a sorry condition to fight a general battle.

But it is not my purpose to discuss the subject. I have been led into these brief reflections by a contemplation of the threatening aspect of the times, and a retrospect to some of the occurrences of the last war; but chiefly by the perusal of a very interesting report which emanated from the War Department during the administration of Mr. Secretary McHenry, more than forty years ago. Even at that early day, the importance of horse artillery appears to have been better appreciated than it is at present, notwithstanding the many additional illustrations which have been furnished by subsequent events.

Believing that your columns will be usefully employed in diffusing some of the facts and views presented in that report, I have taken the trouble to transcribe, from a volume of official state papers in my possession, so much as relates to horse artillery, and herewith enclose it to you for publication, in the hope that it may help to attract the public attention to that important subject.

ARCHER.

“WAR DEPARTMENT, JAN. 5, 1800.

“The horse artillery being a subject that cannot fail to attract attention, it will not, it is conceived, be deemed superfluous to submit a few observations and facts relative to its structure, advantages and importance.

“The Prussians were the first who employed horse artillery, invented by the great Frederick, at a time when the league which was formed against him, called upon his genius to multiply his resources. It was then, that the same army, transported with a celerity and pre-

cision, till then unknown in war, was seen to triumph against superior forces, during the same campaign, upon opposite frontiers, to the east and west of his states. It was then were seen horse artillery accompanying strong advanced bodies of cavalry, without embarrassing or retarding their rapid marches and evolutions.

"Horse artillery was introduced into the *Austrian* army during the reign of Joseph II., but it was not made a principal object, and remained in a state of imperfection. The cannoneers were transported upon the ridges of caissons, stuffed in the attitude of men on horseback. These carriages were called *Wurst-wagen*.

"Some attempts were made in *France* to introduce the horse artillery before the revolution there; the subject, however, was not well understood; the general officers, who were present at the attempt, proposed to place the cannoneers, like the *Austrians*, on *Wursts*.

"In 1791, Mr. Duportail, Minister of War, authorized the commandant of the division of Mity to form two companies of horse artillery. The success of this experiment was decisive, and answerable to the minister's expectations. The officers and men were in a few weeks in a condition to manœuvre with light troops.

"In 1792, Mr. Narbonne, who succeeded to Mr. Duportail, composed a committee of the most enlightened officers of the army, to examine and decide upon the means of improving and extending, in the French army, the use of horse artillery.

"As no better idea can be given of this new military arm, than what is reported of the result of this conference, the Secretary takes the liberty to introduce it.

"These officers resolved, as fundamental points—

1. That a numerous horse artillery well served, and kept complete in cannoneers and horses, was the most certain mean to protect the evolutions of troops *indifferently instructed*, to support their attack with bayonets, and to render null, by positions seasonably taken and with celerity, the advantages which troops *better disciplined*, might confidently promise themselves from superiority in manœuvres.

2. That with respect to the employment of this arm, the rules of service, instruction, &c. the horse artillery ought to differ from the field artillery only, in having its pieces so managed, as to be drawn with the utmost celerity wherever they can produce the greatest effect, and in the cannoneers being able to follow their guns, and to commence action as soon as they are placed.

3. That to fulfil this object, it is more convenient to have the cannoneers all mounted on horses, than a part of them on *wursts*, because on horses they are less subject to accidents, their movement more rapid, their retreat more secure, and the replacing of horses easy.

4. That without excluding any caliber, it appears pieces carrying balls of eight and twelve pounds, and howitzers, may be most advantageously employed.

5. That it is unnecessary to discipline a horse artillery in the manœuvres of cavalry; that this would be a departure, without utility, from the principal object; that it is enough for him to know to sit firm on his horse, to mount and descend quickly, and conduct him boldly; that it is not requisite to oblige him to preserve any order in following his piece, leaving it to his intelligence to learn, if he chooses, to execute the manœuvres of cavalry.

6. That the manœuvre, a la prolonge, ought to be employed in every case in which it is practicable to use it. That the horses remaining attached while the pieces are firing, one gains thereby all the time which would be lost in removing or replacing the *avant train*, and thus one may pass fosses and rivers with the utmost celerity, and profit of positions.

7. That in order to form at once a requisite number of companies of horse artillery, without weakening the artillery regiments, it is sufficient to employ for every piece two skilful cannoneers, and to draw upon the infantry for the rest.

"On these principles, the French have organized an establishment in their armies, from which they have derived the most important advantages in most, if not all their campaigns.

"The decisive agency of horse artillery in *offensive* war was manifested in the invasion of Belgium, by Gen.

Dumouriez, at the end of his campaign in 1792. The affair of *Waterloo* is equally in point, as to its superiority in *defensive* operations.

"Whilst Gen. *Pichegru* commanded the army of *Flanders*, four thousand cavalry, manœuvring with his horse artillery, sustained the immense effort of an army of thirty thousand men, supporting an artillery chiefly of a different kind, of at least triple the force of that opposed to it.

"*Bonaparte*, at the battle of *Castiglione*, after raising the siege of *Mantua*, having re-assembled several divisions of his horse artillery in a well chosen position, under Gen. *Domartin*, broke, by their means, the *Austrian* line, and thus decided a victory upon which depended the most important consequences in his favor.

"It is also certain, that the horse artillery contributed not a little to gain the battle of *Ettingen*, when Gen. *Moreau*, very inferior in cavalry, maintained, by its means, his left wing against the whole cavalry of the Arch Duke. The application of the horse artillery procured to Gen. *Hoche*, upon the Rhine, in the late affair of *Neuried*, like success.

"The Arch Duke Charles, instructed by such events, has greatly augmented and improved this arm of the *Austrian* army. The English, also, have lately introduced horse artillery into their service, but, it is supposed, too sparingly to derive therefrom its full effect.

"Can an agent, so superior in all offensive and defensive operations, and so vastly important from its nature, as well as the use made of it by other nations, be dispensed with in the composition of our army, or neglected with impunity?

"The author of a recent work, entitled '*Précis des evenements militaires*,' published in numbers at Hamburg, from which most of the aforesaid facts respecting this powerful military agent have been taken, observes, 'that it is become indispensable in all armies; it can accompany almost every where cavalry; it crosses rivers and morasses impassable to foot artillery; it thunders in mass and with great rapidity upon an unexpected point of attack; turns a body of the enemy; takes him in flank or rear; can perform the service of advance posts; of artillery position, of the rear guard; and, in fine, that of a corps of reserve, from which detachments may be made as wanted: it is free from the inconvenience ascribed to foot artillery, of retarding and restraining the manœuvres and marches of troops: the French have, therefore, already confined the use of foot artillery to the service of sieges, with the exception of four-pounders, which they have yet left attached to battalions.'

"Horse artillery would seem to be peculiarly recommended to the United States by the reflection, that all attacks on the sea-board must be made by an enemy, water-borne from a distant country, who will consequently be ill provided with horses; whereas, the U. S., having a knowledge of this agent, and resorting to their resources in horses, might be able to oppose a horse artillery so superior and so promptly, as to give decided advantages in attack or defence, and relieve their territory from being ravaged, or long possessed in any part of it. If the United States shall prevent an enemy from procuring the horses of the country, and shall maintain a superiority in this forcible arm, they will have little to fear from invaders, however powerful in infantry."

OHIO, 74, AND HER ACCOMMODATIONS.

U. S. SHIP OHIO,

PORT MAHON, NOV. 28, 1839.

I have seen an article in the Boston "Daily Centinel and Gazette," of August 29th, and in the "Army and Navy Chronicle," of September 5th, 1839, which contains so many mis-statements in relation to this ship and persons on board, that I think some one, as an act of common justice to the parties interested, ought to correct them. That article opens as follows:

"Naples, July 16, 1839. As so much has been said in the papers relative to the accommodations on board the Ohio 74, I felt it my duty as an American citizen, when at Marseilles, where she then was, to en-

deavor to find out how the new plan worked, and was sorry to find on inquiring of the officers, that instead of there being any change in their opinions," &c.

It is unnecessary to my purpose to quote any farther; the only points in this sentence worthy of notice, are the means taken "to find out how the new plan worked," and the fact as to the inquiry "of the officers." I will premise by saying, the correspondent of the New York Evening Star, the author of the article referred to, is known, and it is believed the Ohio 74 was visited by him once during her stay near Marseilles, and then he did not remain on board longer than two or three hours; and although it may be presumed that every facility was afforded to him and particular attentions bestowed in order that he might fully appreciate all the *objections* which had been made to the orlop deck arrangement, it may with reason be asked, if so limited an examination and inquiry by a mere novice, or even by one competent to judge, could have tested "how the new plan worked," or have led to fair and unbiassed conclusions, particularly when the inquiries were confined to those who had openly denounced the arrangement. He "was sorry to find on inquiring of the officers," &c. This general remark would naturally lead you to suppose that a very general inquiry at least had been made "of the officers," and from the result it may be inferred, that some stronger inducement than "duty as an American citizen" took this sapient inspector and investigator on his mission to the Ohio 74, "to see how the plan worked," as his inquiries did not extend to the superior officers of the ship; nor is it believed they extended to one-half, or to one-fourth, and barely one-fifth of those who slept on the orlop deck; and it is but fair to believe, that of those he did inquire, he received no aid in arriving at his conclusions, excepting their "indignation" "in reading those paragraphs which appeared in the Globe and other prints, as emanating from the Ohio which have so grossly misrepresented their feelings and opinions, and which cannot be traced to their source, but are attributed to certain non-combatants who merely exist in the smiles and caprices of those whom they serve and have no feeling in common with the officers of the ship, or with those of the navy generally." And in this they had a right to aid him; but they should have recollected, that non-combatants *very possibly* may have friends who take as lively interest in their health and comfort during a "three years' cruise," as the friends of those who were vauntingly proclaimed "gray haired men"—"gallant fellows, who have fought for their country, and borne her flag aloft in the battle and the storm." ("Heaven save the mark!") And if the non-combatants "have no feeling in common with the officers of the ship," they had "friends at home" whose apprehensions had been excited for the health, comfort and accommodation of a husband, son or brother on board the Ohio, and which the non-combatants desired to relieve, and it is a source of happiness that in this, success attended the effort. But there was wanting on the part of those "gallant fellows," that manliness, generosity and magnanimity which are characteristic of veterans and heroes, if they attributed to those *poor devils* ("who merely exist in the smiles and caprices of those whom they serve") the paragraphs which appeared in the Globe and other prints which have so grossly misrepresented their feelings and opinions." No one of the non-combatants referred to has ever attempted to represent or misrepresent the "feelings and opinions" of others in the Globe or any other print; and it is due to them that the calumny should be refuted. The "indignation" of the officers is innocuous.

The writer for the Star exclaims, "only judge for yourself, the thermometer standing at 90 deg. in the shade, and the heat in the hold so oppressive that I only regretted," &c. What may have been the temperature of him who penned the exclamation, can

only be inferred or guessed at; but the temperature on board the Ohio 74 was not at any time, morning, noon or night, during her stay near Marseilles on either of the decks below the spar deck, higher than 79°, and on the orlop not higher than 78° as recorded in the ships "Log;" and why that writer went into the hold "so oppressive," cannot at this time even be guessed at—certainly not "to find out how the new plan worked."

Not satisfied with his first appeal to the judgment, the gentleman makes another to the imagination and says: "Only imagine so large a number of officers as she has sleeping on the orlop deck, the thermometer standing at 90," &c. It certainly requires the aid of a very prolific imagination to arrive at what that writer wished to convey by "so large a number of officers." Does he wish you to imagine 100? That would be a large number for a 74, and he must have seen or counted double, to have made that number on board the Ohio 74. The question recurs, how many officers would he have you imagine "she has sleeping on the orlop deck?" I give it up, I can't imagine. But I know the fact, that, including all who sleep, or who have at any one time slept, on the orlop deck of the Ohio 74, during her present cruise, combatants and non-combatants, commissioned and non-commissioned officers, clerks, purser's assistants and stewards, and all others, that not more than fifty-five persons have occupied sleeping berths on that spacious deck at any one time; and of those there are eighteen or more accommodated with separate rooms; the others sleep in cots or hammocks, without interfering with each other; and the thermometer has not in a single instance, so far as the records show, indicated a heat of 90° in any part of the ship, except the poop cabin occupied by the commander-in-chief, although the summer was an unusually warm one.

That writer says something about "the foul state of the atmosphere" on the orlop; but as he reports the arrival of the Ohio at Naples "all well," nearly a month after his visit to her at Marseilles, you will infer that no bad effects were produced by it. None have as yet been produced by it, and it must be admitted that the officers and crew of the Ohio 74 have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, an almost unprecedented share of good health.

Another topic of that writer demands notice. It is, "that in no case should an officer be allowed to take his wife or family in any one of the public ships, as you must be aware that it does more or less interfere with the internal arrangement, and very often deters the commander from carrying sail; and in other words are in the way of the officers attending to their duties."

If that writer intended to apply those remarks in any way to the "wife or family" of the present commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean squadron, he deserves to be "handled without gloves;" he has been guilty of a contemptible and malicious falsehood; so far from any such interference, influence, or being "in the way of officers attending to their duties," it was a common remark, whilst they were on board the Ohio, that they were seldom seen out of the cabin, and never when their appearance on deck, would interfere or be in the way of the officers, or any body else, attending to their duties.

The other remarks of that correspondent referring to what he calls "a little circumstance which occurred" at Lisbon between Commodore Hull and the British Admiral on that station, are such, if a proper value had been placed on "the good feeling which had so long existed," as would not have been made, and it is pitiable that the correspondent did not apply to himself that "sense of duty" which "constrains silence;" in so doing, he would not have exposed his ignorance of facts. It is believed he knew nothing, of his own knowledge of the "little circumstance which occurred" at Lisbon.

A NON-COMBATANT.

METEOROLOGY FLORIDÆ.

Thunder-heads of the Gulf-stream. Showers. Breezes. Whirlwinds. Gales. Thunder-storms. Effects of Lightning. General Winds. Northern Lights. Halos, and Sun-sets.

Those clouds or thunder-heads that are so frequently seen from the eastern coast of Florida, hanging over the Gulf-stream and just appearing in the horizon, shining and glowing scarcely less brilliant than the sun himself, seem to have their origin there—they and their superabundant electricity. The difference of temperature both between the Gulf-stream and the circumjacent waters, and between the different strata of the circumambient atmosphere, together with the various currents of air that set in either from cooler or warmer media, were sufficient cause equally for the rapid generation of watery vapor which constitutes the clouds, and for the development of electricity whose action gives them that peculiar clavated form, with perhaps much of their incandescence. When once formed they hover there, morning, noon, and night, day after day, bulging, and slowly changing their appearance, like the mountains and head-lands of a coast which you are sailing down. Long after the sun is set they are seen to glow, and even in the night, when the lightning flashes, they are lighted up with nearly their mid-day splendor. And still unallayed by the cooling shades of evening, with all their wonted turgescence they respond, like Jura's peak, to the first rays of the sun, and like her, in their general aspect they seem steadfast and unchangeable.

When sailing under them they are often observed to dispend such heavy showers, that were they not continually replenished with vapor, they must soon be dissipated in the form of rain. Their lightning, too, flashing as freely as the rain falls, shows that the process of its development is also still going on, else were those clouds magazines as abundantly stored with it almost as the earth itself. But whether it be from the rarity of the atmosphere or any other cause, like heat-lightning, it is seldom dangerous, even to those vessels whose masts approach it in ticklish proximity. The more immediate effects which it is productive of is the formation of water-spouts, and these are not unfrequent.

Sometimes when these thunder-heads have been congesting for several days, an easterly wind arises and drives them in one mass upon the coast. At other times, single clouds that have thus been formed, either over the Gulf-stream or at sea, either by water-spout or evaporation, stray over the land, irrigating portions of the country in their course, seemingly as if the presiding Genius of the Territory herself, with water pot in hand, was sprinkling here and there wherever her parched plants and flowers most required. This kind of shower, together with the thunder-storms of land origin, prevail the greater part of the year. They cool the earth and air wherever they fall, and thus give rise to those rain-scented breezes, that so gratefully fan the face at all times of the day, and in all places, however much heated by the reflex of sand and sun. Another cause of these breezes is, the difference of temperature which always obtains during the warmer season, between the arid pine-barren and the dark, umbrageous hammocks. Cool currents of air issue from them, and frequently meeting each other, they career across the plain in whirlwinds that are occasionally passably violent. One which came more particularly under observation, struck in its course the right flank of an encampment of our allies, the Creek Indians; whirling on to its left, it prostrated the heavier articles in its way, and threw the lighter ones high into the air. The clamor and wild gestures of the Creeks, their streaming frocks and hair, with the sudden confusion of their camp, seemed to those who sat quietly in their tents, as altogether mysterious and unaccountable.

The Seminoles have a formula for concluding a bargain or compact, which originated more particularly in the effects of two kinds of storms, both of which are often very violent. "This will I do if not killed by the falling tree, or struck by the thunder-bolt." The general storms or gales which occur about the autumnal equinox, usually from the N. E., uproot and break off large pines a hundred miles from the coast, and, what perhaps more forcibly manifests their vehemence, the stormy petrel is driven by them up the rivers and creeks far into the interior.

The thunder-storms that during the warmer season of the year have their origin over the land, blackening and brewing in the northern verge of the heavens of a still summer's afternoon, sweep hurriedly down by their own propulsion, not seldom announcing their approach by an almost continual roaring of thunder, interrupted now and then as they near the observer, with explosions like discharges of artillery. Indeed, so much like the report of ordnance are some of these explosions, that when they have occurred in the night, garrisons have been aroused by them, and have stood to their arms. These storms, when accompanied with hail in the spring of the year, seem to have an uncommon altitude, and they are observed to be attended with unusually vive thunder and lightning, while the clouds reel and whirl in more than ordinary commotion.

The number of pine trees that have been scathed by them, would appear to a stranger, notwithstanding the favorable character of the country for such effects, as almost incredible. But here also, as well as in the squalls of the Gulf-stream, the lightning seldom appears to be dangerous or destructive. In a very few instances we have seen where the entire top has been crashed off, and in others where the trunk has been rent asunder as if cut by a chain-shot; but most generally they present the appearance of having been raked by a discharge of grape-shot from above, as if the shot had merely grazed along the trunk. Numerous, however, as are the instances in which these pines exhibit traces of electrical action, we do not recollect one where the equally tall trees, magnolias, oaks, cotton-woods, cypresses, &c. of the hammocks, have ever been touched. The cause of this we leave to more able electricians than ourselves, premising merely, that the pitch with which the pine is imbued may detain the electric fluid developed by induction, and thus the tendency to an equilibrium being stronger, when it was finally restored it would naturally be with a shock.

Florida being low and nearly level, its prevalent winds are perhaps more regular than they are in those regions where the general currents of the air are modified by the mountainous features of the country. Those most noticeable, besides the trade-wind, which strikes the southern part of the territory, are the land and sea breezes during the warmer season, and the northerly winds which prevail through the fall and winter. These last are generally from the N. E. A kind of reaction, however, apparently ensues at intervals, when the winds come from the S. E. and S. W.; but these for the most part are less both in force and duration—though at times they are gusty and violent. The northerly and southerly winds are often observed to blow at the same time; for instance, the clouds in the upper region may move northwardly, while a scud at the surface is driving diametrically opposite. Sometimes the N. E. winds set in for an entire week, with a steady current, as if the whole northern atmosphere were moving in one general flow towards the south. The N. W. wind is particularly remarkable for its coldness; whenever it obtains for several days in succession, as it sometimes does, the inhabitants have to fear for the safety of their tropical plants, orange trees, pomegranates, &c. The N. E. wind would prove equally cold perhaps, were it not tempered by its transit across the sea and Gulf-stream. In concluding this branch of the sub-

ject, we may remark, that these winds at night-fall frequently abate or surcease altogether, commencing again with the rising sun.

The Northern Lights are very seldom seen in Florida. We judge so not from our own experience only, but from the remarks which were made by our Seminole guides upon that brilliant display, which exhibited itself in the month of January, 1837. They said that it was either a fire in the woods, or the white man's fire, for no red man ever built such. It appeared in the northern horizon, very much like those fires that frequently rage in the pine-barren, and it was seen still farther to the south in the Bahamas. The army at that time was in the interior, at about lat. 28°. From the accounts which were given of it at the north, it is ascertained that it formed a bright corona, about 16° south of the zenith of New-Haven. Supposing this crown to have been what was seen in the horizon in Florida, and taking the difference of latitude between the two places, we have sufficient data for obtaining an approximate value of its altitude. The result shows that the phenomenon was probably within the assigned limits of our atmosphere.

The halos which encircle the sun and moon are often, if not generally, tinged, rainbow-like, with yellow, purple, and green. The paraselena are thus rendered very beautiful; but in order to observe the hues of the parhelia, it is necessary to look at their reflection from the water.

During one year for which a diary of the weather was kept on one of the keys, we find that the proportion of fair to the cloudy days was as four to one, and it would perhaps appear to the most careless observer, that the fair days of the year generally predominate. This might seem a matter of not much importance; but it were truly so, not only to the individual admirer of nature, but to the population at large, if for nothing more than the greater number of those gorgeous sunsets which now delight the eye, and which might be sought in vain in the higher latitudes. The changes which are wrought in the crepusculum, from the first disappearance of the sun to the last gray gleam of his reflected light, are more numerous and various, and of course far more grand, than those in the hues of the dying dolphin. In its middle stages it is accompanied with long diverging irradiations, of orange, blue, and purple, which frequently extend quite across the heavens, and form converging rays in the mists and vapors of the opposite horizon. These irradiations, issuing from a bright orange ground, resemble the points of a coronal, and when the crescent moon and evening star appear among them, it seems as if the King of Day was lying in state, and his jewelled crown shone resplendent over his dusky pall. Then the stars come out, and—I cannot refrain from touching upon the grandeur of the night—she glows like the beauty of fair women at a festival. Earth responds with her myriad fire-flies; the birds of the night, the night heron, the whip-poor-will, commence their song like some wild threnody, and the silence and soary fragrance of the hammocks reign—as if a solemn offering of incense and praise ascended from the grateful land to her munificent Creator.

Q.

E OWEN & Co.,

MILITARY AND NAVAL MERCHANT TAILORS,

NEAR FULLER'S HOTEL, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,

BEG leave to inform their patrons of the Army and Navy, that they have made arrangements to receive, direct from London, gold and silver Epaulets, Embroidery, gold and silver Lace, and all the articles necessary for the equipment of officers for either service, of a very superior quality.

To the officers of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, they would respectfully state that they have at length succeeded in procuring complete sets of English embroidery for their Corps, the quality of which has been acknowledged by gentlemen of the Corps of unquestionable taste and judgment, to be the richest and rarest workmanship of the kind ever offered to the public.

Sept. 26—

A SAILOR'S CRUISE.—One of the seamen of the ship Exchange, just arrived at this port, relates of himself rather a singular adventure. About eighteen months ago he left Boston in the U. S. ship of the line Ohio, and continued in her until last August. Whilst that ship was cruising in the Grecian Archipelago, he fell overboard, during a night watch, from her main chains, and some evolution being performed on board at the time, he was not missed until the watch was mustered, two hours afterwards. The ship kept on her stately course, and left him to contend with the elements, and to sink or swim, as might be his fate. Three or four hours afterwards he was picked up by a small Greek brig, bound to Gallipoli. At that place he could not find the American consul, and was persuaded by the English consul, to whom he told his story, to enter on board the English fleet, then lying off Gallipoli. Being entirely destitute, with scarcely a rag of clothes upon his person, he was about to agree to the proposition, but subsequently escaped in a Maltese felucca, and went to Constantinople, where he entered on board a Dutch vessel, bound to Antwerp. This vessel put into Gibraltar, and there he saw, once more, his old ship Ohio, which he had left so unceremoniously some months before. He now anxiously desired to join her again, and entreated the master of the Dutch vessel to allow him to go on board or to send some notice to her of his whereabouts. The Dutchman, being short-handed, would suffer him to do neither, and he finally had the mortification to see the gallant Ohio depart again without him. At Antwerp he gave himself up to the American consul, who supplied him with clothes and sent him on board the Exchange for passage home. That vessel went from Antwerp to Cadiz, and has just arrived at Boston. Thus, eight months after falling overboard from the Ohio, and after so many curious adventures, he is now safely arrived at the very port from which he sailed a year and a half ago. The sailor's name is Charles Smith. He reported himself at the navy yard to Commodore Downes, by which act he will be entitled to all his wages for the whole time of his singular cruise.—*Boston Transcript.*

THE OLDEST SCHOONER.—We mentioned a day or two since, that the schooner Prudence, built at Kittery, in 1789, had received a new set of coasting papers at the custom house, and we said that she was the *oldest schooner in the United States*. She has long been so regarded, and we had no doubt of the fact. It proves, however, to be a "false fact," if the assertion of the Gloucester Telegraph be a "true fact," (strange as it may seem to one who does not consider the force of popular language, to talk of *false facts* and *true facts*—and almost in the same breath, too,) that the schooner Manchester, lying on the beach in that town, was built in 1784—five years before the Prudence was launched, and therefore is "the oldest schooner." The Telegraph says that she retains her original model, and is yet a good vessel. Our only wonder is, where is she insured?—*Ibid.*

NANTUCKET WHALERS.—The editor of the Nantucket Inquirer says that the hearts of many of the islanders were gladdened a few days since by the safe return of husbands, brothers, sons—lovers perhaps—from long and precarious voyages "round Cape Horn." Three whale ships came in sight on one day, and the wharves were thronged to witness their entrance into port. It was an interesting spectacle, and one well calculated to touch the sensibilities of every beholder. It is also stated that most of the Nantucket ships have done well during the past season; one of those recently arrived, it is estimated, has cleared more than a *dollar an hour*, besides interest on cost, &c. from the time she sailed until the hour of her arrival home. About twenty Nantucket whalers are expected home this year.—*Bost. Journal.*

WASHINGTON CITY, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1840.

We learn from out-door rumor, but in such a way as to leave on our mind no doubt of its truth, that Purser J. COLSTON has been dismissed from the Navy, by the President, for a defalcation in his accounts. What the amount of that defalcation is, we do not know.

It is one of the most painful duties we are called upon to discharge, to announce such facts, when personal and friendly feelings are often wounded; but we conceive that we have no right to withhold the information from our readers. Some may differ from us in opinion, but none can regret more sincerely than we do the cause of the annunciation. It is a matter which concerns the public as well as the navy.

The information is not derived from any one in the Department, nor will it be promulgated from the Department until the next annual report. Could we, by withholding the information, restore the officer to the service, and to the standing he held, we would gladly do so; but in a conscientious discharge of public duty, we must set aside private feelings, even were our dearest and most intimate friends or connexions involved.

U. S. NAVAL LYCEUM.—Although we read the constitution of this society when it first appeared, yet having had no occasion since to refer to it, we had not a distinct recollection of its provisions. Consequently we committed an error in our last number, which we were not aware of until it was pointed out to us. By the 5th article of the constitution, the Commandant of the New York Navy Yard is, *ex officio*, President of the Naval Lyceum. At the time we wrote, we supposed it to be an office to which any member of the Lyceum was eligible.

A store-ship, it is expected, will sail from New York for Mahon, between the 15th and 20th May. Letters forwarded in season to the care of the Naval Lyceum, New York, postage paid, or to the Navy Department, Washington, will be sent out by her.

Although not our usual custom to invite attention to articles in this paper, leaving them to speak for themselves, we cannot forbear asking from the authorities here, as well as from officers of the army every where, an attentive perusal of the communication signed F. R. D. It is the emanation of a practical and experienced mind, and its suggestions seem to us fraught with matter of serious import to the whole service. If productions of this character would command the serious consideration of those placed in authority, there is no doubt that many admirable hints would be conveyed through the same channel.

The remains of the late Captain J. W. McCRABB, of the U. S. Army, have been brought to this city, and were interred on Monday last, at the Congressional burial ground, with military honors.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—We shall be glad to hear from Mc —, as often as he can find leisure to write, or any thing to write about. He need not be apprehensive that we shall 'peach to the Commodore. As he asks our opinion, we will give it; and that is, that there can be no impropriety in informing "the gentlemen of the press" of the movements of vessels of war. The people, who are omnipotent in this Republican land, have a right to know what their public servants are doing; and as the Head of the Department tells them only once a year, how are they to be informed except through the press? So far as we are concerned, we desire to tell no secrets; but we keep a sharp look out for every vessel of war afloat, and 'chronicle' whatever we can learn respecting her operations.

"Notes by the Trail, No. 2," are an improvement on No. 1, but not yet up to the mark. There is too much alliteration in some of the sentences, and a redundancy of metaphor that might be pruned with advantage to the whole. We have extracted the cream of the communication, and made a proper disposition of it.

A Board of Officers, composed of Commodore JAMES BIDDLE, of the Navy, Major GEORGE W. WALKER, of the Marine Corps, and Captain W. C. DEHART, of the Army, assembled at the naval asylum near Philadelphia, on the 10th ult., to prepare a code of regulations for the marine corps; and, having completed its labors, adjourned on the 30th.

THE NAVY.—If the Navy of the United States were not at this time so immeasurably inferior to that of Great Britain, we might, in the event of a war with the latter nation, effectually prevent the landing of troops on the continent; and this would be our true policy. In sea engagements we are, with an equality of force, more than a match for the English. This has been tried and proved to our satisfaction. But, unfortunately, our navy is in a most deplorable condition. Even in so small a matter as *arms*, we are wretchedly provided. The cannon cast for our naval service are almost as dangerous to those who handle them as to the foe against whom their destructive force should be directed. It is said that the best cannon in the United States will *burst* after a few discharges in rapid succession!—*Philadelphia Ledger, April 2.*

We were about to offer a few remarks upon the inaccuracy of the above extract from the Philadelphia Ledger of Thursday last; but before we had time to do so, we received the Ledger of the succeeding day, Friday, in which we found the following, and thought that the best commentary we could offer was to place the two articles together. We leave for others to decide what value should be placed upon the opinions of papers that thus blow hot and cold almost in the same breath.

NAKEDNESS OF THE LAND.—Some of our papers are serving their country admirably by publishing to the world all the particulars of our defenceless condition. If the attention of Government is called to the subject, enough has been said. Let us go to work zealously and prepare for the tussle. Better late than never. The British will not stand in need for *spies*, while the weak points of our country are made known by our own newspapers.—*Philadelphia Ledger, April 2.*

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

HAVANA, March —, 1840.

The frigate *Macedonian*, Captain Kennon, with the flag of Commodore Shubrick, and the sloop of war *Levant*, Commander Smoot, arrived in this harbor on the 17th, from a cruise to windward of three and a half months, during which several ports were visited, at which no American frigate had ever before anchored.

The Commodore and his officers were received with the greatest kindness and hospitality everywhere almost; but especially at St. Pierre's, Martinique, where they were welcomed with fraternal ardor—every house was thrown open to them—no officer was permitted to go to a hotel—parties were made every morning, and horses provided for them to ride into the country—breakfasts, and such breakfasts!!!! sumptuous as the feasting at Camancho's wedding—dinners and balls followed in quick succession. On the other hand, the two ships were thrown open to all visitors—cake and wine provided in the Commodore's cabin—and the fine little band of the *Macedonian* kept constantly in requisition, for scarcely a fair Martiniquean left the ship without having whirled more than once round the deck in the giddy waltz with some one of the gallant young Americans.

The ships went as far to windward as Barbadoes, at which place, there being a good deal of small-pox on the island, the Commodore did not deem it prudent to remain more than twenty-four hours. No officer visited the shore, and there was no communication with any of the authorities of the island except the health officer; the usual salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the *Macedonian*, and immediately returned by the fort.

Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Harvey, Commander-in-Chief on the North American station, was at Barbadoes, with his flag on the *Winchester* frigate. When our ships anchored he sent a lieutenant on board the *Macedonian* with the customary offer of services, &c. but did not call on our Commodore, or show any disposition to be civil. Was it that the names of the ships sounded unpleasantly in his ears? Or is it that all foreign officers of rank are determined to make our officers feel, and feel to the heart's core, too, the anomalous situation in which they are kept? with high and important commands, but without the rank which would give them a right to meet officers of other navies, holding similar and not more important commands, on an equal footing. They must now receive that as a concession, when they receive it at all, to which a just government would give them a right; but this is a subject for those to discuss who are immediately concerned in it, and I have something more to say about our cruise.

The commerce of the United States with the West India islands has evidently decreased since I was in these seas, some ten years since. Even at the free port of St. Thomas's, now more frequented than any other port of the islands, except Havana, we found but about twenty American vessels; at St. John's,

Porto Rico, only seven; and at Cape Haytien, St. Domingo, only one. I state the fact, and leave it to politicians to trace the effect to its cause.

France does not allow sugar to be taken from her islands in any other than French bottoms. The absurd system pursued by England with her black population has ruined her colonies; and the two Spanish islands, Cuba and Porto Rico, will in a few years, if they do not already, produce more than all the other islands together. It is to be observed, however, that on the latter island the slave population is small, being only about 60,000 to 400,000 whites. The island is very fertile, is divided into small plantations, and cultivated principally by whites of the same manners and habits as the peasantry of old Spain.

We go from this in a few days for Pensacola; but all is dark as to where we are to go from thence—whether down the Gulf, or as some of us fondly hope, to the north, no one knows, except perhaps the Commodore, and these Commodores have an ugly fashion of keeping their own counsel. You will hardly believe it when I tell you, but it is a fact, that the *Ontario* went to sea last summer, and even her own officers did not know where she was bound until they had been some days out. This is considered by us subordinates very anti-republican. Think of sending a number of freemen to sea without letting them know whether they are going to England or Africa! It is truly aristocratic and oppressive; besides, how are the young officers to keep the *gentlemen of the press* informed of the intended movements of the ships? Would it not be well if Congress should pass a law that the officers and men too shall be consulted as to their destination? As you hold the pen of a ready writer, and are the son of a true democrat, your readers, and especially us youngsters of the West India squadron, would like to know what are your opinions on this subject. You shall hear from me again from Pensacola. Mc.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

March 26—Surgeon A. N. McLaren, army, Fuller's
30—Brig. General A. Eustis, do., do.
Capt. T. P. Gwynn, 8th infy., Brown's.
Lieut. M. Smith, navy, Fuller's
April 1—Lt. G. H. Pegram, A.D.C., 1st infy., Gadsby's
Lieut. D. N. Ingraham, navy, do.
Lieut. W. F. Lynch, do., Fuller's
3—Major W. M. Graham, 4th infy., Gadsby's
Brig. Gen. J. E. Wool, Insp. Gen., do.
Major J. D. Graham, Top. Engrs., F street
6—Major Gen. W. Scott, army, Mad. Bihler's

PASSENGERS.

NEW YORK, April 2, per steamship *British Queen*, for London, Major R. L. Baker, Captains A. Mordecai, and B. Huger, of the U. S. army. Per ship *Arkansas*, from New Orleans, Passed Mid. T. W. Cumming, of the navy, and two others reported as of the U. S. navy, but whose names cannot be identified with any on the Navy Register.

CHARLESTON, March 31, per steam packet *Wm Seabrook*, from Savannah, Gen. J. E. Wool, of the army, and servant.

NEW ORLEANS, March 24, per steam packet *Natchez*, from Havana, Capt. W. A. Spencer, of the navy.

Proceedings of Congress, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

IN SENATE.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1840.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, for the use of the members, sixty copies of the Navy Register for the year 1840; which was read.

Mr. BUCHANAN presented a memorial remonstrating against the use of bloodhounds in the Florida war; which was laid on the table.

Mr. HENDERSON presented the memorial of the Legislature of Mississippi, praying the erection of several fortifications on the southern coast of that State, and a survey and examination of the different harbors and sounds on the said coast; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill for the relief of Captain Snodgrass's company of Alabama volunteers, reported the same without amendment.

The bill was then, on motion of Mr. B., considered as in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the bill to establish and regulate the navy ration, reported it without amendment.

Mr. LINN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into expediency of making an appropriation to satisfy the claim of Lieut. Albert Miller Lea for money expended and services rendered in surveying the southern boundary of the line of the Iowa Territory.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17.

Mr. WALL submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be requested to appoint a board consisting of navy and marine officers, to witness an exhibition of the improved boarding pistols and rifles invented by Samuel Colt, and report the results in detail for the information of Congress; together with their opinion of the advantages to be derived from the adoption of the same for the services of boarders and marines.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18.

Mr. SOUTHARD presented the memorial of Bliss and Creighton, chronometer manufacturers, of the city of New York, praying the adoption of measures for the encouragement of the manufacture of chronometers in the U. S.; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. SOUTHARD submitted the following motion for consideration: which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to furnish to the Senate copies of such parts of the correspondence of the Department in relation to the construction of steam ships of war, as he may regard proper for publication, and useful for public information.

Mr. SOUTHARD also submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to inform the Senate, 1, What are the rank and commission which Lieut. Charles Wilkes, jr., and Lieut. Wm. L. Hudson, now hold in the naval service of the U. S.; 2, Whether the said officers, or either of them, received from the Department or otherwise, before they left the U. S., any other commission or authority as naval officers, or in any other, and in what respect or character, than as lieutenants in the navy; 3, Whether the Department has information that either, or both, of said officers have, since their departure from the U. S., assumed and used any other, and what, uniform or flag above that of lieutenant, or lieutenant commanding, and if they have, by what right or authority the same has been done.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12.

Mr. TAPPAN, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the claim of James H. Clark, re-

ported a bill for his relief; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. NORVELL submitted the following motion; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of re-establishing a military post at Detroit, and of erecting barracks and constructing fortifications for the protection of the same; for improving the forts at Gratiot, Mackinac, the Sault St. Marie, and Green Bay.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. SOUTHARD, was agreed to.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, MARCH 16.

The CHAIR announced that the question first in order was the motion of Mr. CASEY to refer the memorial of the National Road Convention, held at Terre Haute, Indiana, to the Committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to report a bill making a reasonable appropriation for the continuation of the National road in the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, for the year 1840, to be expended under the direction of the War Department; said appropriation to be subject to all the restrictions and conditions of former appropriations on said road.

The substitute of Mr. PICKENS for said instructions, as follows:

"And that the memorial be committed to the Committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to consider the expediency of reporting a bill in favor of the measure."

And Mr. MARVIN's amendment to the original proposition, and substitute for Mr. PICKENS's amendment, as follows:

"And that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to report bills in accordance with the estimates contained in the reports from the Chief Engineer, and the Chief of the Topographical Engineers, to the Secretary of War, and communicated to Congress by the President, making appropriations for the year 1840, for the continuation of the construction or improvements of harbors and roads, and the navigation of rivers, for which appropriations have been heretofore made."

The SPEAKER said, when the subject was last up, the question immediately pending was the motion for the previous question, which had not been seconded. The House had ordered a call, upon which it adjourned. If there was no objection, the call would be dispensed with.

Several gentlemen persisted in having the call, which was proceeded in till 192 members had answered to their names; when,

On motion of Mr. RAMSAY, all further proceeding in the same was dispensed with.

The previous question was then seconded, and the main question ordered; which main question was, Shall the substitution of Mr. MARVIN for the proposition of Mr. PICKENS be adopted?

Mr. CAVE JOHNSON demanded the yeas and nays; which were ordered.

Mr. W. C. JOHNSON here offered an amendment to the substitute of Mr. MARVIN, proposing an appropriation for the improvement of the Monocacy river, in Maryland; which was ruled out of order, and which Mr. M. refused to accept as a modification.

The question was then taken on Mr. MARVIN's substitute, and decided in the negative—yeas 80, nays 112.

The question then recurring on the substitute of Mr. PICKENS,

Mr. CASEY said, as it would be decisive of the question he demanded the yeas and nays, which were ordered; when

Mr. PICKENS, in view of the vote given, withdrew his substitute.

The question then recurred on the original proposition [Mr. CASEY's;] upon which the yeas and nays were ordered, and were—yeas 88, nays 109.

So the House refused to refer, with instructions.

The memorial alone was then referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, without instructions.

Mr. RARIDEN gave notice that he should, at an early day, ask leave to introduce a bill making appropriations

to continue the Cumberland road in the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

Mr. BARNARD gave notice that he would, at an early day, ask leave to introduce a bill making an appropriation for the continuance of the improvements in the Hudson river.

Mr. JAMESON presented a petition of Thomas H. Noble, asking pay for furnishing Fort Leavenworth with coal, under a contract made with Thomas Swords, Quartermaster United States army.

Mr. REYNOLDS presented a letter of Capt. Anderson, of the U. S. army, exhibiting the outline of an asylum for the old and war-worn soldiers, and the manner for providing for the construction of the same; this letter was ordered to be printed.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17.

Mr. REED, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, by permission, reported to the House

A bill to regulate the pay and emoluments of pursers in the navy; and

A bill to regulate the navy rations; which were read twice, and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the War Department, enclosing a report from the Chief Engineer, in compliance with resolution of 25th Feb., 1839, showing what injury was done the property of Joseph H. Walters, in consequence of the improvements on Cape Fear river, North Carolina; which was read, and appropriately referred.

Also, a report from the Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the House, showing the probable amount of claims against the U. S., growing out of the Florida war; which was, on motion of Mr. L. WILLIAMS, referred to the Committee on Claims, and ordered to be printed.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communications:

A letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting the report of the Third Auditor, in reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 9th inst., in relation to the settlement of the claim for horses lost during the late hostilities with the Creek and Seminole Indians in Alabama and Florida, by the Alabama volunteers; referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Also, a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th ultimo, calling upon the War Department to communicate such information as it may be possessed of, relative to the causes requiring troops to guard the payments of annuities to Indians on the Des Moines river; referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, in compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 9th instant, transmitting copies of the correspondence on file in the Navy Department between Admiral Baudin, of the French navy, and Commodore W. B. Shubrick, of the U. S. navy, at Pensacola, during the month of June last; laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1840.

Mr. REED, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To regulate the pay and emoluments of pursers in the navy.

Be it enacted, &c. That all purchases of slops, groceries, stores, and supplies of every description, for the use of the navy, as well for vessels in commission as for yards and stations, shall be made with and out of the public moneys appropriated for the support of the navy, under such directions and regulations as may be made by the Executive for that purpose; and it shall not be lawful for pursers, or other officers, or persons, holding commission or employment in the naval service, to procure stores or any other articles or supplies for, and dispose thereof to, the officers or to the crew, dur-

ing the period of their enlistment, on or for their own account or benefit; nor shall any profit or per centage upon stores or supplies be charged to or received from persons in the naval service, other than those which are hereinafter prescribed.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Executive to provide such rules and regulations for the purchase, preservation, and disposition, of all articles, stores, and supplies, for persons in the navy, as may be necessary for the safe and economical administration of that branch of the public service, and to prescribe the advance or per centage which shall be added to the cost thereof and charged to the persons to whom the same may be furnished, disposed of, and disbursed: *Provided,* That such advance or per centage shall be no greater than may be deemed sufficient to meet the ordinary and usual losses and wastage upon the respective articles, and save the Government from expense and loss in purchasing, safekeeping, and disbursing, the same.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, in lieu of the pay, rations, allowances, and other emoluments, authorized by the existing laws and regulations, the annual pay of pursers shall be as follows, viz. when attached to vessels in commission for sea service, they shall receive, for ships of the line of three decks, \$4,000; [for ships of the line of two decks, \$3,500; for razees and frigates of the first class, \$3,000; for frigates of the second class, \$2,500; for sloops of war and steam vessels of war, \$2,200; for vessels smaller than sloops of war, but carrying not less than six guns, \$1,800; and for vessels carrying less than six guns, \$1,500; when attached to navy yards or stations, or to receiving-ships or vessels, not more than \$3,200, nor less than \$1,800; to be regulated by the President of the U. S., having regard to the relative responsibilities and duties of the respective employments; and on all other duty, \$1,500; on leave of absence or waiting orders, \$1,200; and on furlough, \$600;] for frigates and razees, \$3,500; sloops of war and steamers, \$2,500; brigs and schooners, \$1,800; on duty at navy yards, at Norfolk, Boston, New York, and Pensacola, \$3,500; at Portsmouth, Philadelphia, and Washington, \$2,500; receiving-vessels at New York, Boston, and Norfolk, \$2,500; at all other places, \$1,800; and no purser shall retain a receiving-ship, station, or navy yard, longer than three years at one time, unless the interest of the service requires it; on waiting orders, the same pay as surgeons. And it is hereby expressly declared, that the yearly pay provided in this act is all the pay, compensation, and allowance, that shall be received, under any circumstances whatever, by pursers, except one ration per day, when attached to vessels for sea service, and except also for travelling expenses, when under orders, for which ten cents per mile shall be allowed.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act contained, shall be construed to affect the bonds which have heretofore been given by pursers in the navy, but the same shall remain in full force and effect, as if this law had not been passed; and the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized and required to demand and receive from them, or any of them, new bonds, with sufficient sureties, in all cases in which he may consider the same necessary and expedient; and in case any purser shall improperly neglect or refuse to give such new bond, it shall be the duty of the Executive to dismiss him forthwith from the service.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the rules and regulations which shall be made in conformity with the provisions of this act shall be laid before Congress at their next session.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for a purser in the navy to advance or loan any sum or sums of money, public or private, or any article or commodity whatever, or any credit, to any officer in the naval service, under any pretence whatever.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the provisions of this act shall go into effect on the first day of January next; and any acts or parts of acts which may be contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this act, shall be, and are hereby, repealed.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That pursers attached to, and doing duty in, navy yards, stations, and all vessels of a larger class than schooners, shall be authorized to appoint an assistant or clerk, to be approved by the commanding officer of such yard, station, or vessel; and the yearly compensation of said assistant shall be as follows, viz. of an assistant in a sloop of war, station, or steam frigate, \$500; in a frigate or navy yard, or receiving-vessel, \$600; in a ship of the line, \$800. Said assistant or clerk shall have the privileges which are allowed to the clerk of the commanding officer; and each purser and assistant, while attached to vessels in commission, shall receive one ration per day.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all stores of pursers on board ships in commission shall be taken by the Government at a fair valuation, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, the annual pay of boat-swains, gunners, sailmakers, and carpenters of the navy of the U. S., shall be as follows: when on duty, \$800; when off duty, \$600.

Congressional Document.

COURT OF INQUIRY—LT. COL. BRANT.

OPINION OF THE COURT.

Upon the foregoing facts, and the testimony adduced, the court are of opinion—

That it was unnecessary and improper in Lieutenant Colonel Brant to keep the public horses and mules on his own farm in 1837; that, in doing so, he consulted his own interest and profit, and not the interest of the United States. That the prices paid by him for the keeping of the public horses on his own farm, and in livery-stables in St. Louis, were too high. That all the public horses under Lieutenant Colonel Brant's charge in 1837, might have been kept in the livery-stables in St. Louis, or alternated between the livery-stables and good and convenient pastures, as might have been preferred, (giving them, in both situations, good and sufficient grain, and other proper care,) for fifty cents per week for each horse less than was paid by Lieutenant Colonel Brant in that year.

That Lieutenant Colonel Brant failed in his duty as a Government agent in not having, either by public advertisements, or in some other efficient way, invited proposals and a fair competition for keeping the public horses and mules under his charge in 1837.

That, in certifying the accounts of William Dowler, J. O. Bradshaw, and John Kimball, as cited in the statement of facts [paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,] Lieutenant Colonel Brant signed false certificates, in this: that the prices charged were not "just," and the accounts not "correct;" inasmuch as the services were not "rendered" or "performed" by the persons as "stated" and "charged," nor the money due to them; that the services are not truly described, nor the items of the accounts truly set forth.

The court is further of opinion, that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in pasturing and keeping the public horses and mules on his own farm in 1837, violated the spirit, if not the express meaning, of the first section of the act of Congress, approved 22d of May, 1812, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to establish a Quartermaster's Department, and for other purposes.'"

On a consideration of the facts stated in paragraphs from 20 to 27, the court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in procuring, through the agency of John Darneille, of St. Louis, the redemption, in horses, oxen, and a mule, of a promissory note drawn in his (Lieutenant Colonel Brant's) favor, and in afterwards selling the said horses and oxen to the United States; as also one horse which Lieutenant Colonel Brant caused to be exchanged for the aforesaid mule, in the name of said John Darneille, and without his consent and knowledge, whose signature he (Lieutenant Colonel Brant) procured to a blank account

and receipt, on which subsequently the charge against the United States for said horses was made; was guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

And the court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in filling up, or causing to be filled up, the aforesaid blank account and receipt, [as set forth in paragraph 24,] the former with charges against the Government for the aforesaid horses (one of which was unfit for the public service) and oxen greater than their actual cost when delivered at St. Louis, and the latter with a sum of money exceeding that which John Darneille actually received, was guilty, on the one hand, of a speculation for his own personal gain at the expense of the United States, and, on the other, of a deliberate fraud upon the Treasury.

The court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in exchanging the mule aforesaid, which had cost \$40, for a horse, \$70 difference having been given with the mule, [as set forth in paragraph 26,] and in afterwards selling said horse to the United States for \$120, in the name of John Darneille, above his signature to the blank account and receipt as aforesaid—and this after he (Lieutenant Colonel Brant) had, but a few hours previously, rejected this said horse when offered for sale to him for the public service, and which could have been bought for \$100—was guilty of a fraud upon the Government.

The court is of opinion that the condemnation and sale of the three horses, mentioned in paragraph 27, was owing to no fault of Lieutenant Colonel Brant; and that no loss sustained by the United States on that account is justly attributable to him, the horses having become injured while in the public service.

Before dismissing this branch of the matter of its investigation, the court feels bound to say, that although the most persevering efforts have been made to invalidate and destroy the testimony of John Darneille, a principal witness before it, the court has seen nothing, either in the manner in which he delivered his testimony, or in the testimony itself given by him, or in the testimony of others, to effect his credibility. His statements have been consistent throughout the various examinations and cross-examinations, and his recollection positive, except on some very immaterial or subordinate points; and, what is most material, his statements of the prices of the horses taken of Walker, and many circumstances of the transaction, are confirmed by the witness Barnes. And, notwithstanding that another witness (John Haverty, when introduced by the defence to testify a second time on this point) contradicted the statement of Darneille respecting the signing of a blank receipt on the 21st of June, 1837, yet, as this witness directly contradicted at the same time his own previous testimony on the same point, the court feel bound to declare that they place entire belief in the statement of Darneille.

The discovery which has been made in the course of this investigation, that Lieutenant Colonel Brant has taken signatures to blank receipts in other instances than that of John Darneille aforesaid, [as set forth in paragraph 28,] seems to justify the court in here expressing its reprobation of the practice. It is one which places in jeopardy the public interests; and which, viewed in the most favorable light, will always cast suspicion upon the public agent who practises it.

In reference to the facts contained in paragraphs 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, the court is of opinion—

That, if it was proper for the officers to pay their board, it was not proper to cover and secure its payment by the amount stipulated in the contract to be paid by the United States; and if it was intended to deduct their board from that amount, there should have been an express provision to that effect in the contract; otherwise, the contract stands according to its express provisions. And this contract stipulates expressly for a cabin passage for the officers; and

makes no reference to any deduction on account of board, but stipulates, positively, and without any condition other than the delivery of the troops and stores, for the sum of \$600 to be paid by the Government. The court is further of opinion, that, although this mode of forming a contract which creates accounts between officers and the Government is irregular and improper, yet that, having formed a contract in this way, and created a debt from the officers to the Government, it became the duty of Lieutenant Colonel Brant to represent the fact to the Quartermaster General, or proper accounting officers at Washington, in order that these accounts might be properly adjusted. It does not appear, however, that Lieutenant Colonel Brant has ever done so.

The transaction is not satisfactorily explained to the minds of the court.

In reference to the facts stated in paragraphs 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, the court is of opinion—

That the charge against the United States for the two canoes was unjust and improper, inasmuch as they were incidental and necessary to the keeping and feeding of the public horses and mules, and should have been provided at the expense of the keeper of said horses and mules.

That the said Richard Morgan, being the slave of Lieutenant Colonel Brant, was improperly reported by him, as said report conveyed the idea that he was a free man, and that the wages paid him on account of the United States were for his sole use and benefit; whereas said wages were for the use and benefit of Lieutenant Colonel Brant himself.

That the mode of making up said Morgan's time charged against the United States, by fractions of days and hours, and converting the whole into days, was improper, and liable to great abuse.

That it was improper to take the receipt of a slave in an account presented against the United States.

That the certificates signed by Lieutenant Colonel Brant upon the report of persons and articles hired and employed by him at St. Louis in September, 1836, is a false certificate.

The court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in renting for the public service two storehouses of his own, [as set forth in paragraphs 44, 45, 46,] and other buildings and rooms, [see paragraphs 51, 52,] was, (within the period that the General Regulations for the Army, published in 1825, were in force,) guilty of a violation of the 993d paragraph thereof, which forbade any officer of the quartermaster's department being, directly or indirectly, concerned in any contract with any department of the Government; the court regarding an agreement between a proprietor and the Government for the occupation and rent of buildings, in whatever shape made, as a contract in the spirit and meaning of the regulation.

That during the whole period those buildings were thus rented for the United States, Lieutenant Colonel Brant practised a deception upon the Quartermaster General and the Treasury Department, by causing the accounts for the rents of the buildings to be made in the name of another person, [as seen in paragraphs 49, 51, 52,] and that, in removing to said storehouses certain public supplies, which had been more cheaply stored elsewhere by Captain G. H. Crosman, [as set forth in paragraph 46,] Lieutenant Colonel Brant consulted his own pecuniary interests rather than those of the Government; and that, in all the foregoing matters, Lieutenant Colonel Brant was guilty of conduct unbecoming his official station.

The court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in paying, or professedly paying, by taking his receipts, to George K. McGunnele, storage for goods of the Indian department, while no such storage was furnished by him, [as set forth in paragraph 47,] was guilty of misapplication of the public money. That the payment made on that account for the months of May and June, 1837, actually went into Lieutenant Colonel Brant's hands, for his own emolument. And,

from all the testimony in reference to Lieutenant Colonel Brant's ownership of the building in which the supplies of the Indian department were stored, and that touching his interest in the house of Hill & McGunnele, and their successors, the court is of opinion that a portion of, or all, the sums Lieutenant Colonel Brant himself paid, or professed to have paid, on account of said storage, from the 1st of September, 1835, (the vouchers have not been placed on the record, but returned to the Treasury,) were indirectly, if not directly, emoluments to himself; and that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in insisting to Major Hitchcock that another quarter's storage was due on said goods, was only endeavoring to promote his own pecuniary interests, at the sacrifice of those of the Government. Although the defence has been set up [as explained in paragraph 48] that, as an offset to this charge of storage on the Indian goods, occasional storage was furnished for other supplies gratuitously by George K. McGunnele, in whose name the storage of the Indian goods was charged, the court is of opinion that, until it is proved (and it has not been proved) that the storage thus gratuitously furnished was actually an equivalent for that improperly charged against the Indian department, the character of the matter, in a pecuniary view, is not affected; as it is certain that payment of a specific sum has been made on the one hand by Government, while nothing but vague impressions as to the amount of storage gratuitously furnished, unsupported by the semblance of an account, exists on the other. But even if it could be shown that the Treasury had not sustained a loss by this transaction, the court would still regard it as a most exceptionable irregularity on the part of Lieutenant Colonel Brant in the discharge of his public duties. The court is of opinion, that, in the use made of the name of George K. McGunnele on the accounts against the Indian department for storage, and in procuring his signature to the receipts thereto attached, Lieutenant Colonel Brant practised a deception on the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and on the Treasury Department. And the court is further of opinion, that the certificates of Lieutenant Colonel Brant to such vouchers, setting forth their correctness, and that the services charged were rendered, [as seen in paragraph 47,] are false.

In relation to the facts stated in paragraph 50, the court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant having been entitled to an office as disbursing agent of the Indian Department, there was no impropriety in his using a room in his own dwelling-house for that purpose, and charging the Government therefor; and that, inasmuch as he actually had such an office besides the one used by him as quartermaster, the imputation that he charged the Government double rent for one room is without foundation. The court, however, is called upon to condemn the deception which was again practised, in making George K. McGunnele appear as the claimant for, and the receiver of, the rent due for a room actually the property of Lieutenant Colonel Brant.

The court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in taking receipts for money stated to have been paid on public account, viz: for storehouses for the public supplies, when no such payment had been made, as set forth in paragraph 52, was guilty of an official impropriety; as such a practice, under the least exceptionable circumstances, is radically wrong. But having reference to the person (George K. McGunnele) who, in such cases, signed the receipts, and to the agency he is proved to have had in forwarding Lieutenant Colonel Brant's private views, the court is further of opinion, that in all such instances of non-payment Lieutenant Colonel Brant was actually benefitted, while the said George K. McGunnele was used to conceal the pecuniary interest of Lieutenant Colonel Brant in the matter from the Quartermaster General and the Treasury Department; and that, in all such instances of non-payment,

supposing George K. McGunnele to have been a bona fide creditor of the Government, were (within the period the General Regulations for the Army, published in 1825, were in force) in violation of paragraph 993 of said regulations.

The court is of opinion, in reference to the facts stated in paragraph 53, that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in writing to the acting Quartermaster General on the 14th November, 1836, that he "presumed" the rent of the brick warehouse rented for the quartermaster's department would be raised on the 1st instant, not only endeavored to deceive that officer, by carefully concealing from him the fact that he (Lieutenant Colonel Brant) was the owner of the said warehouse, but by enclosing the written opinions of two citizens, appointed, as it appears, by himself, (one of whom understood the building to be Lieutenant Colonel Brant's) as to the rent the building was worth, to show his own disinterestedness, except as an agent of the Government, and to confirm the impression he sought to make on the mind of the acting Quartermaster General, that the warehouse was the property of some other person. The court is of opinion, as the increase of rent which Lieutenant Colonel Brant notified the acting Quartermaster General he "presumed" would commence on the 1st November, actually took place on the 1st October, one month and thirteen days prior to the appraisement and Lieutenant Colonel Brant's letter, and was professed to have been paid by him, that either he made a false representation of the case to the acting Quartermaster General, or that he connived at an overcharge of rent, for a period prior to the date when it was understood the increase of the rent was to take effect.

The court is of opinion, from the facts stated in paragraph 54, that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in causing, or agreeing to, an increase of the rent of the brick warehouse, proved to be owned by himself, from \$600, for which it had been rented to the United States since 1st January, 1836, to \$1,000 per annum, commencing 1st October, 1836, at which amount it remained until the building was abandoned by Captain Crosman on the 1st April, 1838, was guilty of a fraud against the Government, and, as the court believes, indirectly, if not directly, for his own benefit. The court is of opinion that, by such increase of the rent, the Government lost, unjustly, \$375, from the 1st January, 1836, to 1st April, 1838, when the building was abandoned—taking \$700 as a fair average rent for said storehouse for the years 1836, 1837, and 1838, as set forth in paragraph 54.

In reference to the facts stated in paragraph 55, the court is of opinion that the frame building of Lieutenant Colonel Brant, which he rented for a subsistence storehouse to the Government, in the name of George K. McGunnele, at the rate of \$450 per annum, from the 1st March, 1837, to 30th September, 1837, was rented at too high a rate; that \$350 per annum would have been a liberal rent therefor; and that, in causing the Government to pay a higher rent, Lieutenant Colonel Brant committed a fraud against the United States, as the court believes, indirectly, if not directly, for his own benefit.

The court is of opinion, in reference to the facts stated in paragraph 56, that the reduction Lieutenant Colonel Brant made, in the name of George K. McGunnele, of the rent of his brick warehouse, on his replacing a portion of the public stores there about the month of September, 1838, from what it had formerly been, (\$1000 per annum,) to a monthly sum at the rate of \$420 per annum, furnishes no palliation of his conduct in having previously charged an exorbitant rent; and that his subsequent increase of the rent, about the 1st December, 1838, to a monthly sum at the rate of \$800 per annum, for which the building is now rented to the United States, is, in reference to rents generally in St. Louis, unauthorized. In reference to one fact set forth in paragraph 56 the court will remark, that if any thing be wanting to show the

little interest George K. McGunnele (in whose name rents of this storehouse have been habitually charged against the United States) has in the matter, compared with that manifested by Lieutenant Colonel Brant, corroborative proof of the fact that he is not the sole or real owner of the property would be found in the circumstance that said McGunnele seemed not to be aware that a reduction of the rent to \$420 per annum had been made, until the account for the rent for September, 1838, was shown him, and that then he could only conjecture the cause, viz: that it was not wholly occupied by the Government stores—"we had goods of ours stored in it at the time"—a fact of itself injurious to Lieutenant Colonel Brant; for, if the reduction of the rent of the warehouse was occasioned by its being in part only occupied by the public supplies, he was guilty of signing a false certificate, in making it appear, as he did, by his certificate attached to the account for the rent for September, 1838, (which purported to charge rent for the entire building,) that the entire building was rented to the United States, unencumbered by claims of other persons to storage room therein. It appears also, (which may further explain McGunnele's interest in that property, and his knowledge of the rents upon it,) that said warehouse was rented in the months of October and November at the same rate, \$420 per annum.

Finally, on this subject of warehouses and rents, the court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant has failed in his duty to the Government, by not having advertised, or given public notice during several years past, that a storehouse was wanted for the public service. The court is confident in the opinion that, had such public notice been given, a suitable warehouse could have been obtained in a sufficiently convenient part of St. Louis for the Government business, and large enough for all the supplies usually here, for from \$650 to \$700 per year, during the last three years.

The court is of opinion, from the facts stated in paragraphs 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61, that Lieutenant Colonel Brant has had a pecuniary interest, in some shape, in the houses of Hill & McGunnele; Hill, McGunnele, & Way; and McGunnele & Way: that Lieutenant Colonel Brant's large loans to them, and his heavy liabilities for them, make and made it his policy to aid in preserving their solvency, and in promoting their welfare.

The court is of opinion, that, from the pecuniary interest Lieutenant Colonel Brant is proved to have had, and to have, in the firm or firms aforesaid, all purchases made of them, or of either of them, and all contracts or agreements for supplies, or for services, made with them, or with either of them, by him in his capacity as an officer of the Quartermaster's Department, were, (within the period the General Regulations of the Army, published in 1825, were in force,) in violation of the 993d paragraph of said regulations; and further, that all such purchases, whether by contract or otherwise, were in violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the 1st section of the act of Congress, approved May 22, 1812, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to establish a Quartermaster's Department, and for other purposes.'"

The court is of opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Brant, in making purchases of the aforesaid firms, or of either of them, of articles totally out of their ordinary line of business, (see paragraph 62,) such as wood, coal, straw, wagons, harness, &c. &c., not only evinced an extraordinary and improper anxiety to throw the public money into their hands, but, in so doing, he precluded that fair and open competition essential to the establishment of fair and just prices in the market.

The court adjourned *sine die*.

E. CUTLER,
Col. 4th inf'y, President of the Court.
J. F. LEE,

Lt. Ord. corps, Judge Advocate, and Recorder.

FLORIDA WAR

From the St. Augustine Herald, March 26.

We publish the following gentlemanly letter from the officer whose signature is below, as an act of justice to him; it being necessary, as, some how or other, a misstatement of the affair to which it alludes got introduced in our paper some time since.

FORT PLEASANT, (M. F.) March 16.

MR. EDITOR: Twelve or fifteen volunteers, under the command of Lieut. Whiddon, of Florida volunteers, falling upon a trail near Calico Hills, somewhere in the neighborhood of Magnolia, tracked the Indians into a hammock, when coming upon them, the savages fired one gun, which mortally wounded the Lieutenant, and his men retreated. I have nothing to do with the merits of the case, but presume this was the affair alluded to in your paper of March 5, commencing "Captain Gardenier, with an officer and fifteen men," &c. I have had nothing to do with the volunteers, and beg leave to request you to publish this as a correction of your paragraph of March 5.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. R. B. GARDENIER, Capt. 1st U. S. I.

BLOODHOUNDS.—We saw a gentleman this morning direct from Florida, who witnessed the first experiment with the bloodhounds, which answered admirably. They started four Indians from a hammock in a very short time, and one came in and gave himself up—the whole four were made prisoners without any injury having been done by the dogs. Colonel Twiggs and Lieut. Darling were about to set off for Micanopy, and the hounds were to follow. They are sent into the everglades and hammocks in which the Indians conceal themselves, who are compelled to run, and they soon find themselves in the open fields and are captured. The howl of the dogs gives notice of their success, and those on the borders of the hammocks watch for the egress of the savages, and they are caught.—*N. Y. Star.*

MORE BLOODHOUNDS.—A letter from Matanzas, dated the 11th ult., says the U. S. schr. of war Flirt, commanded by Lieut. McLaughlin, arrived at this port some three or four days since, for a recruit of bloodhounds for the Florida service. She sails again to-morrow, having obtained the desirable number. She also takes out four Spaniards, who are to have charge of them.

Original Poetry.

LINES ON THE CONSTITUTION.

See our brave old ship sails proudly o'er
The angry surge's foam;
Through the howling winds and the tempest's roar,
Full many a mile from home.
And her sailors gladly tempt again
With her the stormy ocean;
And scorn the fiercely swelling main,
And the element's commotion.

She has stood the battle's iron shower,
And received many a bullet wound;
But still aloft her taper masts tower,
And her hull is strong and sound.
And still will she so gallantly
Sustain her ancient name,
And proudly e'er float her flag of the free,
Increasing still in fame.

Her country shall in her deeds e'er rejoice,
Her name fill the pages of story;
And her crew always feel proud of their choice,
And share in her honors and glory.
And each gallant tar, when the battle shall come,
Will fight with a brave resolution;
And joyously shout, when the victory's won,
Huzza! for the old Constitution.

H. S.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

LATEST FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—We have received over land, the Sandwich Island Mirror to Dec. 15th. It appears to be in the Catholic interest, and hotly opposed to the American Missionaries, though its motto is, "In truth's bold cause, to rouse each fearless heart." It is printed on the 15th of each month. In the number for November, we find the following very appropriate paper from the American naval officers on that station.

CIRCULAR.

We, the undersigned officers of the United States East India Squadron, having, upon our arrival at this place, heard various rumors in relation and derogatory to, the American Mission at these islands, feel it to be due not only to the missionaries themselves, but to the cause of truth and justice, that the most unqualified testimony should be given in the case; and do therefore order one thousand copies of the annexed article and correspondence to be printed for gratuitous distribution, as being the most effectual mode of settling this agitated question in the minds of an intelligent and liberal public.

Being most decidedly of opinion that the persons composing the Protestant mission of these islands are American citizens, and as such entitled to the protection which our Government has never withheld, and with unwavering confidence in the justice which has ever characterized it, we rest assured that any insult offered to this unoffending class will be promptly redressed.

It is readily admitted that there may be in the operation of this, as in all other systems in which fallible man has any agency, some objectionable peculiarities; still, as a system, it is deemed comparatively unexceptionable, and believed to have been pursued in strict accordance with the professed principles of the Society which it represents; and it would seem that the salutary influence exerted by the mission on the native population, ought to commend it to the confidence and kind feelings of all interested in the dissemination of good principles.

GEORGE A. MAGRUDER,

ANDREW H. FOOT,

JOHN W. TURK,

THOMAS TURNER,

JAMES S. PALMER,

EDWARD R. THOMSON,

AUGUSTUS H. KILTY,

GEORGE B. MINOR,

JOHN HASLETT, Surgeon of the Fleet.

JOHN A. LOCKWOOD, Surgeon.

DAINGERFIELD FAUNTLEROY, Purser.

FITCH W. TAYLOR, Chaplain.

ROBERT B. PEGRAM, Master.

JOSEPH BEALE, Assistant Surgeon.

J. HENSHAW BELCHER, } Professors of Mathema-

ALEX. G. PENDLETON, } tics.

Lieutenants.

NAVY.

ORDERS.

March 31—Lieutenant W. M. Glendy, Rendezvous, Baltimore.

April 1—Lieut. D. N. Ingraham, leave three months, having returned from the coast of Brazil on sick ticket.

2—Lieut. F. Engle, command of receiving vessel Pioneer, at Philadelphia, vice Lieut. I. Shubrick, relieved.

Lieut. W. W. McKean, detached from navy yard, Philadelphia.

3—Passed Mid. G. J. Wyche, detached from depot of charts, &c.

Commanders J. M. McIntosh and J. Tattnall, Lieuts. A. A. Harwood, T. T. Craven, and J. A. Davis, special service under Capt. M. C. Perry.

6—Surgeon Geo. W. Codwise, rec'g ship, Boston.

7—Comm'r. W. A. Spencer, detached from W. I. squadron, and permission to return to New York.

Passed Asst. Sur. J. F. Sickels, navy yard, New York.

Military Intelligence.**CHANGES IN THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
SINCE THE 1ST DECEMBER LAST.****Quartermasters.**

Major E. Mackay, Middle Florida.
Major S. McRee, ordered from Fort Leavenworth to
St. Louis, to relieve Capt. M. M. Clark.

Assistant Quartermasters.

Capt. Thomas Swords, ordered from leave of absence to
Fort Leavenworth, to relieve
Major McRee.

Capt. S. B. Dusenbery, Baltimore.
Capt. D. H. Vinton, Sacket's Harbor.
Capt. E. B. Alexander, ordered to Fort Towson.
Capt. O. Cross, Tampa Bay, Fla.
Capt. R. E. Clary, Garey's Ferry, Fla.
Capt. C. O. Collins, ordered to Bangor, Me.
Capt. J. M. Hill, ordered to Charleston, S. C.,
to relieve Capt. Dix, who goes
on furlough.

Capt. D. S. Miles, Suwannee frontier, Fla.
Capt. A. C. Myers, St. Augustine.
Capt. S. M. Plummer, Cedar Keys, Fla.

Medical Department.—March 26, leave for 3 months
to Surgeon A. N. McLaren. April 3, leave to Asst.
Surgeon G. R. Clarke, for three months from the time
he leaves his post.

Pay Department.—Paymaster B. Walker, ordered
to Florida for duty; station, Tallahassee. Jacob Brown,
late of the 2d infy., appointed Additional Paymaster,
under the 25th section of act of July 5, 1838.

Topographical Engineers.—Major Graham has re-
turned to Washington from his tour of duty in surveying
the boundary line between the United States and Texas.

1st Artillery.—The 1st regiment of U. S. artillery,
the head quarters of which has been at this post for
some two years, has been ordered to the Maine frontier.
The first detachment, commanded by Capt. Porter, will
leave here on the 1st of April, and will take up its line
of march from Burlington across to Boston; from thence
by water. The second detachment will leave about the
12th of April, by the same route. The third will leave
about the 1st of May.

Capt. Taylor's company will remain at this post until
further orders.

The post at Rouse's Point will be abandoned, for the
present.—*Plattsburgh Republican.*

3d Artillery.—Resignation of 1st Lieut. Buckner
Board accepted March 31.

4th Infantry.—Resignation of 1st Lieut. John L.
Hooper accepted March 31.

8th Infantry.—Capt. T. P. Gwynn, relieved from
recruiting service at Richmond, Va., and ordered to join
his regiment at Sacket's Harbor.

ARMY.**OFFICIAL.**

GENERAL HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ORDERS, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
No. 17. Washington, April 2, 1840.

The following Regulation has been received from
the War Department, and is published for the informa-
tion and guidance of those concerned.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, March 28, 1840.

REGULATION.

The services of Hospital Stewards with troops on a
march being indispensable, authority is hereby given for
the employment and payment of suitable persons
to perform that duty with troops operating in the field.
The compensation to stewards, serving with a de-
tachment, consisting of more than four companies, will
be the pay, clothing, and rations of a Sergeant of
Ordnance; and when serving with a smaller detachment,
of more than one company, it will be the pay, clothing,
and rations of the First Sergeant of a company of In-
fantry. In the event of there being no person specially

enlisted as hospital steward, the surgeon will, with the
approbation of the commanding officer, appoint a suita-
ble non-commissioned officer or private to perform that
duty.

J. R. POINSETT."

BY ORDER OF ALEXANDER MACOMB,

Major-General-Commanding-in-Chief:

R. JONES, Adj. Gen.

Naval Intelligence.**U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.**

WEST INDIA SQUADRON.—Frigate Macedonian, Capt.
Kennon, bearing the broad pendant of Commo. Shu-
brick, ships Levant, Comm'r. J. Smoot, Ontario, Com.
J. D. Williamson, and Warren, Lt. Com'g S. B. Wil-
son, were at Havana, March 21—all well.

BRAZIL SQUADRON.—Ship Independence was towed up
to the navy yard, New York, by the steamboats Hercu-
les and Samson, on the 1st instant.

Ship Fairfield, Comm'r. Boorman, arrived at New
York on Thursday last. Officers:

Commander CHAS. BOARMAN, Esq.; Lieuts. E. G.
Tilton, Wm. McBlair, O. S. Glisson, E. L. Handy, T.
R. Rootes; Acting Master S. Larkin; Surgeon B. F.
Bache; Asst. Surgeons J. S. Messersmith, J. A. Guion;
Passed Midshipman N. G. Bay; Midshipmen B. S.
Gantt, J. S. K. You, J. N. Morris, J. W. Ripley, F. J.
Stenson; Captain's clerk J. A. King; Acting Boat-
swain J. Pettey; Gunner G. Sirian; Carpenter W.
Jordan; Sailmaker J. Heckle.

Ship Marion, Comm'r. Belt, sailed from Rio Janeiro,
Feb. 15, for Montevideo.

PACIFIC SQUADRON.—Ship Falmouth, Capt. McKeever,
was at Valparaiso, on the 11th Jan., to sail in about a
week for Callao, to take on board Mr. and Mrs. Bart-
lett as passengers; expected to leave Callao about the
18th Feb. for the U. S., touching at Valparaiso and
Rio Janeiro.

Ship Lexington, Capt. Clack, at Payta, on the 30th
Jan., to sail in a few days for Callao; expected to leave
Valparaiso by the 25th Feb. for the U. S., touching at
Rio Janeiro.

The Ship Narragansett, arrived at New Orleans,
on the 27th March, from Liverpool, was boarded on
the 25th Feb., in lat. 21, 30 N., lon. 29, 19 W., by the
U. S. schr. Grampus, Lt. Com'd't J. S. Paine, bound to
the coast of Africa—all well.

DEATHS.

In Baltimore, on the 2d instant, CATHARINE
JOSEPHINE, in the 32d year of her age, wife of Lieut.
FREDERICK CHATARD, of the U. S. navy.

On the 15th ult., PHILIPS LEE, only child of Doctor
JAMES C. PALMER, U. S. navy, aged 17 months and 21
days.

At his residence, Old Point Comfort, Va., on the 19th
Feb., after a long and agonizing illness, Mr. WILLIAM
ARMISTEAD, post sutler. He has left a family of
devoted children, "who mourn not without hope," be-
lieving their parent was fully prepared for death. His
last illness, though unusually severe, was marked with
entire resignation and the most unswerving belief and
reliance on a Saviour. Prosperity has not crowned his
efforts while connected with the army; but the writer
of this believes he has gained "golden opinions" from
all those with whom he was connected in his precarious
business.

Norfolk, April 1, 1840.

ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE UNIFORMS.

JOHN SMITH, (late of West Point,) would respectfully in-
form the officers of the army and navy, that he is now enabled
to furnish to the different corps their uniform complete, all made
of the best materials, and forwarded with despatch.

To prevent errors, the Legislature of New York has authorized
him to change his name to JOHN S. FRASER; therefore all letters
hereafter will be addressed to

JOHN S. FRASER,
March 5—tf 168 Pearl street, New York

OFFICIAL NAVAL REGISTER, FOR 1840.—A few
copies for sale at this office.

Ap. 2